

Appendix A

(i) Amendments
in marked-up form to
Claims 1, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23

(ii) New Claims 26~71, and

(iii) Status of all other claims

1. (currently amended) A consolidated yarn comprising (a) discontinuous filaments of different lengths that have not been drawn and are intermingled along a length of the yarn to maintain a unity of the yarn, and (b) continuous filaments intermingled with the discontinuous filaments along the length of the yarn;

wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, and a polyimide; and mixtures of any two or more thereof;

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wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin

polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and

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wherein the average length, "avg", of the discontinuous filaments is greater than 6 inches, and the discontinuous filaments have a filament length distribution characterized by the fact that 5% to less than 15% of the discontinuous filaments have a length that is greater than 1.5 avg.

2. (original) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof

3. (previously presented) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein the wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a

natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber;
and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

4. (original) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and wherein the continuous filaments comprise different materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

5 ~ 15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein the discontinuous filaments have a filament length distribution of 5% to less than 15% of the filaments having a length less than 0.5 avg.

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17. (currently amended) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a filament-to-filament coefficient of friction of 0.1 or less.

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18. (previously presented) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn have a

filament cross-section having a width and a plurality of thick portions connected by thin portions within the filament width, and the thin portions at the ends of the discontinuous filaments are severed so the thick portions are separated for a length of at least about three filament widths to thereby form split ends on the filaments.

19. (currently amended) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a latent elasticity of 30% or more.

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20. (currently amended) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier comprise a bicomponent yarn comprising a first component of 2GT polyester and a second component of 3GT polyester.

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21. (previously presented) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein at least 1% of the yarn by denier comprises a fluoropolymer.

22. (currently amended) A yarn according to Claim 1 which comprises at least two filaments that have visually distinct differences detectable by an unaided eye.

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23. (currently amended) A yarn according to Claim 22 wherein the differences comprise a difference in colors, the colors of the filaments excluding neutral colors having a lightness greater than 90%, and the colors of the filaments having a color difference of at least 2.0 CIELAB units, the lightness and color difference measured

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according to ASTM committee E12, standard E-284, to form a multicolored yarn.

24. (previously presented) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein the continuous filaments have less than 10% elongation to break.

25. (previously presented) A yarn according to Claim 1 wherein the continuous filaments comprising elastic filaments having an elongation to break greater than about 100% and an elastic recovery of at least 30% from an extension of 50%.

26 (new) A consolidated yarn comprising (a) discontinuous filaments of different lengths that have not been drawn and are intermingled along a length of the yarn to maintain a unity of the yarn, and (b) continuous filaments intermingled with the discontinuous filaments along the length of the yarn;

wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, and a polyimide; and mixtures of any two or more thereof;

wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and

wherein the continuous filaments have less than 10% elongation to break.

27. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof

28. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein the wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

29. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and wherein the continuous filaments comprise different materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a

metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

30. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein the average length, avg, of the discontinuous filaments is greater than 6 inches, and the discontinuous filaments have a filament length distribution of 5% to less than 15% of the filaments having a length less than 0.5 avg.

31. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a filament-to-filament coefficient of friction of 0.1 or less.

32. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn have a filament cross-section having a width and a plurality of thick portions connected by thin portions within the filament width, and the thin portions at the ends of the discontinuous filaments are severed so the thick portions are separated for a length of at least about three filament widths to thereby form split ends on the filaments.

33. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a latent elasticity of 30% or more.

34. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier comprise a

bicomponent yarn comprising a first component of 2GT polyester and a second component of 3GT polyester.

35. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein at least 1% of the yarn by denier comprises a fluoropolymer.

36. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 which comprises at least two filaments that have visually distinct differences detectable by an unaided eye.

37. (new) A yarn according to Claim 36 wherein the differences comprise a difference in colors, the colors of the filaments excluding neutral colors having a lightness greater than 90%, and the colors of the filaments having a color difference of at least 2.0 CIELAB units, the lightness and color difference measured according to ASTM committee E12, standard E-284, to form a multicolored yarn.

38. (new) A yarn according to Claim 26 wherein the continuous filaments comprise elastic filaments having an elongation to break greater than about 100% and an elastic recovery of at least 30% from an extension of 50%.

39. (new) A consolidated yarn comprising (a) discontinuous filaments of different lengths that have not been drawn and are intermingled along a length of the yarn to maintain a unity of the yarn, and (b) continuous filaments intermingled with the discontinuous filaments along the length of the yarn;

wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, and a polyimide; and mixtures of any two or more thereof;

wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and

wherein the continuous filaments comprise elastic filaments having an elongation to break greater than about 100% and an elastic recovery of at least 30% from an extension of 50%.

40. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof

41. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 wherein the wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

42. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and wherein the continuous filaments comprise different materials selected from the group consisting of nylon,

polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

43. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 wherein the average length, avg, of the discontinuous filaments is greater than 6 inches, and the discontinuous filaments have a filament length distribution of 5% to less than 15% of the filaments having a length less than 0.5 avg.

44. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a filament-to-filament coefficient of friction of 0.1 or less.

45. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn have a filament cross-section having a width and a plurality of thick portions connected by thin portions within the filament width, and the thin portions at the ends of the discontinuous filaments are severed so the thick portions are separated for a length of at least about three filament widths to thereby form split ends on the filaments.

46. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a latent elasticity of 30% or more.

47. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier comprise a bicomponent yarn comprising a first component of 2GT polyester and a second component of 3GT polyester.

48. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 wherein at least 1% of the yarn by denier comprises a fluoropolymer.

49. (new) A yarn according to Claim 39 which comprises at least two filaments that have visually distinct differences detectable by an unaided eye.

50. (new) A yarn according to Claim 49 wherein the differences comprise a difference in colors, the colors of the filaments excluding neutral colors having a lightness greater than 90%, and the colors of the filaments having a color difference of at least 2.0 CIELAB units, the lightness and color difference measured according to ASTM committee E12, standard E-284, to form a multicolored yarn.

51. (new) A consolidated yarn comprising (a) discontinuous filaments of different lengths that have not been drawn and are intermingled along a length of the yarn to maintain a unity of the yarn, and (b) continuous filaments intermingled with the discontinuous filaments along the length of the yarn;

wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, and a polyimide; and mixtures of any two or more thereof;

wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and

wherein the yarn comprises at least two filaments that have visually distinct differences detectable by an unaided eye.

52. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof

53. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein the wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

54. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and wherein the continuous filaments comprise different materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a

metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

55. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein the average length, avg, of the discontinuous filaments is greater than 6 inches, and the discontinuous filaments have a filament length distribution of 5% to less than 15% of the filaments having a length less than 0.5 avg.

56. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a filament-to-filament coefficient of friction of 0.1 or less.

57. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn have a filament cross-section having a width and a plurality of thick portions connected by thin portions within the filament width, and the thin portions at the ends of the discontinuous filaments are severed so the thick portions are separated for a length of at least about three filament widths to thereby form split ends on the filaments.

58. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a latent elasticity of 30% or more.

59. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier comprise a

bicomponent yarn comprising a first component of 2GT polyester and a second component of 3GT polyester.

60. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein at least 1% of the yarn by denier comprises a fluoropolymer.

61. (new) A yarn according to Claim 51 wherein the differences comprise a difference in colors, the colors of the filaments excluding neutral colors having a lightness greater than 90%, and the colors of the filaments having a color difference of at least 2.0 CIELAB units, the lightness and color difference measured according to ASTM committee E12, standard E-284, to form a multicolored yarn.

62. (new) A consolidated yarn comprising (a) discontinuous filaments of different lengths that have not been drawn and are intermingled along a length of the yarn to maintain a unity of the yarn, and (b) continuous filaments intermingled with the discontinuous filaments along the length of the yarn;

wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, and a polyimide; and mixtures of any two or more thereof;

wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acetate polymer or copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, polyacetal, an acrylate polymer or copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, polyimide, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a copolymer of an amide with an ether and/or ester, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and

wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a latent elasticity of 30% or more.

63. (new) A yarn according to Claim 62 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

64. (new) A yarn according to Claim 62 wherein the wherein the continuous filaments comprise materials that are different from the materials from which the discontinuous filaments are comprised and are selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a styrenic polymer or copolymer, an ether/ester copolymer, a vinyl polymer, a polyimide, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a natural fiber, a metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

65. (new) A yarn according to Claim 62 wherein the discontinuous filaments comprise materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, and mixtures of any two or more thereof; and wherein the continuous filaments comprise different materials selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, an aramid, a fluoropolymer, a cellulose polymer, an olefin polymer or copolymer, a polyurethane, a copolymer having blocks of polyurethane and blocks of polymerized ethers and/or esters, a

metallic fiber or wire, a glass fiber or a ceramic fiber; and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

66. (new) A yarn according to Claim 62 wherein the average length, avg, of the discontinuous filaments is greater than 6 inches, and the discontinuous filaments have a filament length distribution of 5% to less than 15% of the filaments having a length less than 0.5 avg.

67. (new) A yarn according to Claim 62 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier have a filament-to-filament coefficient of friction of 0.1 or less.

68. (new) A yarn according to Claim 62 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn have a filament cross-section having a width and a plurality of thick portions connected by thin portions within the filament width, and the thin portions at the ends of the discontinuous filaments are severed so the thick portions are separated for a length of at least about three filament widths to thereby form split ends on the filaments.

69. (new) A yarn according to Claim 62 wherein at least 1% of the discontinuous filaments in the yarn by denier comprise a bicomponent yarn comprising a first component of 2GT polyester and a second component of 3GT polyester.

70. (new) A yarn according to Claim 62 wherein at least 1% of the yarn by denier comprises a fluoropolymer.

71. (new) A yarn according to Claim 62 which comprises at least two filaments that have visually distinct differences detectable by an unaided eye, wherein the differences comprise a difference in colors, the colors of the filaments excluding neutral colors having a lightness greater than 90%, and the colors of the filaments having a color difference of at least 2.0 CIELAB units, the lightness and color difference measured according to ASTM committee E12, standard E-284, to form a multicolored yarn.